



AZSFWC has been engaged on the issues surrounding OHV's for the last few years and 2025 was no exception. Our intent is to help mitigate to the maximum extent possible the negative impact OHV's are having on wildlife habitat and the recreating/hunting public.

Our Past President John Koleszar has represented us on the Arizona Senate's OHV Ad Hoc Committee since its inception in 2023. With Senator Kerr's retirement in 2024, Senator Dunn has picked up the baton and is leading the assessment effort. The Committee remains viable; however, progress has been negligible. We anticipate the next meeting in the coming weeks.

The proliferation of ATV and OHV use over the last couple of decades has been astronomical, and the impact on the landscape has tracked according to the use. Once quiet landscapes across Arizona are now not, and our climate allows OHV use year round. The machines are capable of going almost anywhere, and when that means off the roads, in closed areas, and damaging habitat, serious issues arise.

Some of the critical issues include education, law enforcement, habitat mitigation, wildlife impact, safety, respect for both private and public land, and of course funding.

For the record, not every OHV driver is a problem. However, one OHV operator can start the cascade of habitat destruction with a "new" road, even when it's not supposed to be there. While Arizona's population continues to grow, our land mass is not and public land available for recreation continues to shrink each year.

Compounding the problem is a desire from the OHV community for more trails and places to ride. One proposal has a designated route from Payson to Alpine. The Tonto National Forest now has a designated OHV use area, set aside for an additional fee. It begs the question however; how many people are going to pay to play in that part of the forest when the rest of it remains open and free of fees?

Arizona's Legislature passed an education requirement for OHV owners in 2023 when they register their vehicle. A good start, but it isn't required of all operators. For many years, an OHV sticker has been required for each vehicle. That \$25 fee remains in place, but that revenue hardly makes a dent in mitigating habitat damage, funding law enforcement needs, or maintaining trails.

As an OHV owner, the \$25 fee for a year's worth of use is a bargain.

As a hunter, the annual resident license is \$37. If you are fortunate to be drawn for a big game tag, you normally have about one week to hunt for any particular species. A deer tag will cost you \$58, and an elk tag will cost you \$148 as examples. Not quite the bargain of the OHV sticker.

AZSFWC will continue to participate in the Senate Ad Hoc Committee with hope that a consensus will be reached to solve some of the issues surrounding OHV use, abuse, and funding needs.

Arizona State Parks & Trails (State Parks) just announced they have established an OHV Mitigation Work Group, with an objective to make their grant program more effective in addressing negative impacts of OHV use to our state's natural resources

and improving trail safety. State Parks receives a portion of the OHV registration fees, so ensuring their program is effective is important. AZSFWC will participate in that effort too.

Arizona's next Legislative Session begins again on January 12th. The last couple of years has seen bills introduced by the OHV industry to increase the weight limit that defines an OHV in Arizona. The current top weight is 2500 pounds. The industry wants that increased to 3500 pounds, effectively reducing registration fees for these larger, heavier, and faster rigs to the \$25 threshold, thus eliminating higher fees based on the value of the vehicle.

AZSFWC, the Arizona Farm Bureau, and others, have opposed the weight limit increases for several reasons, including the loss of revenue to the state, and the increased likelihood of more habitat damage on the landscape.

AZSFWC represents many diverse organizations, so it naturally follows that we are concerned about ALL wildlife and habitat. As stewards of our shrinking public lands, we'll continue to monitor the issues and engage on the OHV Committee and Work Group.

Finally, here are some timely reminders from the Arizona Game & Fish Department:
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/AZGFD/bulletins/4031dc6>

For Wildlife and Conservation,
Jim Unmacht
Executive Director

L. Gary Stinson Grant Program

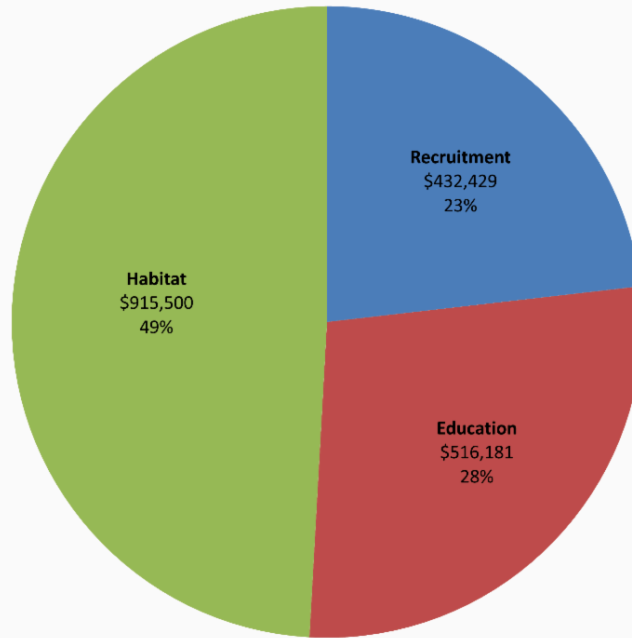
For the 15th year in a row, our annual license plate revenue increased in 2025! We averaged \$21,072 per month in plate revenue for a total of \$252,864 exceeding 2024 by \$15,289.

We approved 27 Stinson Grants totaling \$266,856, bringing the total since 2012 to \$1,942,303. Grant awards in 2025 included \$63,252 for habitat, \$124,925 for Education and \$78,679 for Youth Recruitment. You can see the list [HERE](#).

AZ Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation Grant History 2012-2025

Total Approved - \$1,942,303

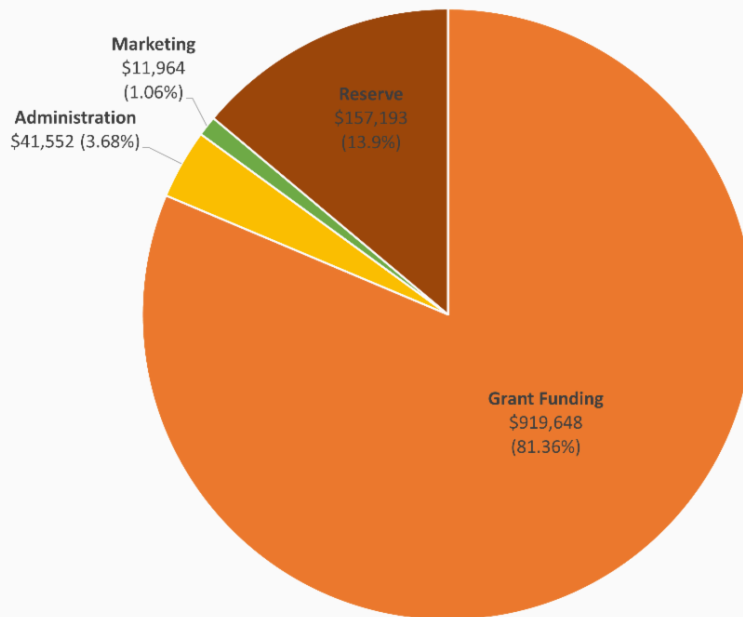
Total Utilized - \$1,864,110



And we continue to keep administrative costs at a minimum. Over the last 5 years, 81.4% of license plate revenue funded grants, 13.9% of revenue was retained for future grant funding and 4.7% of revenue funded marketing and administration of the program.

**AZ Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation
License Plate Fund 5 Year Analysis 2021-2025**

Total Revenue - \$1,130,357





Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) organization in existence for at least 2 years, in good standing with the AZ Corporation Commission and have a physical presence of a chapter or other unit in Arizona. Additional eligibility requirements, instructions and program information can be found [HERE](#).

Applications for project funding will be submitted using our online submission form [HERE](#) and funding decisions will be made by the AZSFWC Board at the end of February 2026.



Please support our Member Group Activities



ALTAR VALLEY
CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

Highway Clean Up
January 31, 2026

[Info](#)

SAQF Banquet
February 7, 2026
Sonoita Fairgrounds

[GET TICKETS](#)



SAVE THE DATE

CONSERVATION CUP II

3-7-26

BEN AVERY CLAY TARGET CENTER
5060 W SKEET STREET
PHOENIX, AZ 85086

SOUTHERN ARIZONA QUAIL FOREVER

2026 Family Day

Activities Include:

Trap Shooting
Archery
BB Gun Range
Fly-Fishing Intro
Animal Footprint ID
Live Quail Hunt Demonstration
Bird Cleaning
Police Dog Demo
Falconry
Free Breakfast & Lunch



****No Fee/All Ages Welcome****

Location: Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, Empire Ranch/Airfield Site (north of Sonoita, AZ)

Time/Date: Saturday, March 7, 2026 (8:00am – 1:00pm)

Sponsored by: Southern Arizona Quail Forever Chapter

Register at AZ Game & Fish Outdoor Skills (<https://register-ed.com/events/view/229476>)

For additional info contact:

Tony Valentino | 520-465-6569 | avalen18@aol.com
Zack May | 520-301-8135 | zmay@comcast.net

Arizona Adaptive Water Sports First Annual Breakfast

March 27, 2026, 8am to 10am
GrayHawk Golf Course Fairway House

At Arizona Adaptive Water Sports, we break barriers. We believe everyone deserves the chance to feel the wind in their hair, the sun on their face, and the pure joy that only water can bring no matter your disability.

Because on the water, something magical happens. Souls are refreshed.

Our mission is simple: to create life-changing experiences through adaptive water sports that spark confidence, fuel hope, and transform lives. We are a faith-based organization and serve in the healing ministry of Christ.

**ARIZONA
ADAPTIVE
WATER SPORTS**



**ARIZONA
ADAPTIVE
WATER SPORTS**

We've watched it unfold time and again—when someone who thought they'd never water ski again gets up and skims across the lake, or when a child with limited mobility laughs from deep in their belly while tubing, possibility shines through.

These aren't just fun moments—they're turning points.

- Cross-generational program for all disabilities.
- 70% initiate doing something new with their life!
- Literally break barriers at 9 different lakes. Conquering Fear!

Celebrating Over 8 Years of Breaking Barriers and Refreshing Souls!

- Impacting over 720 lives in 2024.
- 450 athletes plus families/friends.
- 125 of the most amazing hard-working volunteers on planet earth.
- Adaptive Wakesurfing-AZ has the largest Adaptive Wakesurfing Division in the USA.
- The Triple Crown WaterSports Program-athletes & their families/friends to explore Bartlett Lake, Lake Havasu and Lake Powell.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$125 for a single participant

Table for 10 people \$1,000

Captain Sponsor: \$2,500

This includes two tables (20 Guests) and recognition in the event program (Full Page), website and social media.

First Officer: \$1,250

This includes one table (10 Guests) and recognition in the event program (Half Page) and social media.

Helmsman: \$1,125

This includes half table (5 Guests) and recognition in the event program (Quarter Page)

Full Page Program sponsorship: \$500

Half Page Program sponsorship: \$250

Quarter Page Program sponsorship: \$125

Sponsorship Opportunities for the Event:

Title Sponsorship for the entire event: \$7,500
(only one Title Sponsor)

Title Sponsor includes the following:

- This includes two tables (20 guests)
- Name recognition on all event communication and during program presentation
- Logo on 2026 fall event tee shirts for participants and volunteers
- Ability to leave marketing materials on tables for the event or giveaways
- Social Media and Website recognition for the year

**CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER**

**SCAN TO
REGISTER**



Corporate Partner



Members

Alter Valley Conservation Alliance	AZ Predator Callers
Anglers United	Conserve and Protect Arizona
AZ Adaptive Water Sports	Delta Waterfowl
AZ Antelope Foundation	Diablo Trust
AZ Big Game Super Raffle/Conservation First USA	Ducks Unlimited
AZ Chapter Backcountry Hunters & Anglers	Friends of the Buenos Aires NWR
AZ Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation	Into the Wild Outdoors
AZ Chapter Safari Club International	Mogollon Sporting Association
AZ Council Trout Unlimited	Mule Deer Foundation
AZ Deer Association	No Excuse Hunting & Outdoors
AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society	Outdoor Experience 4 All
AZ Elk Society	Southern AZ Chapter Quail Forever
AZ Flycasters Club	The Trust for Public Land
AZ Houndsmen Association	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
AZ Mule Deer Organization	Valley of the Sun Chapter Quail Forever
AZ Outdoor Adventures	Wildlife for Tomorrow
AZ Outdoor Sports, Inc	Wildlife Water Works

Associate Members

AZ Trappers Association
AZ Working Dog Association
Be Outdoors Arizona
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Hunter Nation
Rio Salado Sportsman's Club
Sun City Sportsmen Club

Affiliate Members



Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation is a 501-c-3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to educate and inform sportsmen, wildlife conservation organizations throughout the state and the public at large on important issues related to wildlife and wildlife habitat and to provide, via grants or other sources, funding to conserve Arizona's wildlife populations through habitat enhancement initiatives.

DONATE

The AZSFWC is responsible for managing the conservation license plate program (L. Gary Stinson Grant Fund). The fund is derived from the sale of wildlife conservation license plates and member organizations as well as non-member organizations are eligible to apply for those funds.



Not Just Another Pretty Plate

By purchasing this plate you will be making a contribution to Arizona's wildlife and wildlife habitat. Seventeen dollars (\$17) of each twenty-five (\$25) special license fee will go to AZSFWC's L. Gary Stinson Grant Fund. AZSFWC will review and approve all grants from the special license plate program revenues. These grants will fund important outdoor recreational and educational opportunities and on-the-ground wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement projects. (More info [HERE](#)).

These plates can be purchased online and can also be personalized. To order an AZSFWC Conservation License Plate go to: <https://azmvdnow.gov/plates>

Scroll through the page, to the "See All" button. Plates will be listed alphabetically with our plate entitled "Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation". Click on the plate and follow the prompts. Order your plate as a sequential shelf plate for \$25.00 per year or as a personalized plate for \$50.00 per year.

The plate is also available for all categories of trailers as well as with the International Symbol of Access for Disabilities.

The AZSFWC Conservation Plate gives all Arizonan's an opportunity to contribute to programs that benefit our wild creatures. **Step up and support "Wild Arizona".**





Try email marketing for free today!